United Nations ST/IC/2009/37

Secretariat

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Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 8 October 2009: "Indigenous people" stamps and annual collection folders**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 8 October 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 18 commemorative stamps on the theme "Indigenous people". The stamps were designed by Stephen Bennett (United States of America).

2. The stamps, in a mini-sheet format of six stamps on each sheet, will be issued in denominations of $0.44, SwF 1.30 and €0.65.

(United States equivalents: SwF 1.30: $1.19 and €0.65: $0.91, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

3. The stamps in this series are:

Beach Baby, Seychelles, 2001; *Bario Baseball*, Malaysia, 2006; *Welcome to Beswick*, Australia 2003; *Karen Long Neck Bling*, Thailand, 2007; *Temple Rain Man*, Indonesia, 2006; *Break from Dancing*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2001;

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Charcoal and Blue Sky, Papua New Guinea, 2007; *Himba Super Model*, Namibia, 2001; *Whiskey and Dancing*, Namibia, 2001; *100 Mile Smile*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2001; *Akha Bracelet Lady*, Thailand, 2006; *Tavita the Ghost*, French Polynesia, 2000; *The Green Bead*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2002; *Wirrapanda Reconciliation Ceremony*, Australia, 2004; *Somehow Very Sure*, Namibia, 2002; *Bukat Prince*, Indonesia, 2006; *Sunset Braids*, Namibia, 2001; *Cotton Candy Turban*, United Arab Emirates, 2005.

4. Indigenous people are the inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to other people and to the environment. Indigenous people have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, the various groups of indigenous people around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples.

5. The landmark United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, drafted and debated for more than 20 years, was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2007. The Declaration is the most comprehensive statement of the rights of indigenous peoples ever developed, giving prominence to collective rights to a degree unprecedented in international human rights law. It emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to live in dignity, to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their self-determined development, in keeping with their needs and aspirations. The adoption of this Declaration is the clearest indication yet that the international community is committing itself to the protection of the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples.

2009 annual collection folders

6. The New York, Geneva and Vienna annual collection folders of single mint stamps and souvenir sheets issued in 2009 will also be released on Thursday, 8 October 2009. It should be noted that the 2009 Endangered Species series stamps **will not** be included in the individual New York, Geneva or Vienna annual collection folders. They are contained in their own separate albums, previously issued in April 2009.

General information

7. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 8 October, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) A temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby in front of the windows between the cafeteria and the newsstand from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

8. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.